

SUPERANNUATED MINISTER'S FUND

Reported,	\$91 30
Allentown, Pa., S. S. C. E.,	1 05
Flora, Ind., "	1 00
Miss Naomi Wilson, in full on pledge,	1 00
To Bro. Holsinger,	\$10 00
To Bro. Nickolson,	10 00
Balance,	\$74 35

ALICE E. AUGUSTINE.

R. R. 4, South Bend, Ind.

OBJECTIVE POINTS FOR OUR S. S. C. E. WORK

ANNIE E. SWITZER

It is a pleasure to see the interest that is being manifested in S. S. C. E. work. But a few years ago there was no such society in existence, now almost every church in the brotherhood of any size has a more or less active society.

The movement has spread because there was a need and consequently a demand for it. For many ages woman was thought not to have any duties outside of the home. It remained for this last and best of them all to open the doors of equality and begin to make a reality that which Jesus taught so many years ago.

In the Brethren church there is no distinction made on account of sex in any church work. Our beloved church is in advance of almost all the rest in this respect. But it puts an added responsibility upon the sisters of our own church to rise to the measure of their opportunity and do their part of the great work the Lord has committed to the church.

In our S. S. C. E. we have made a beginning and in our gathering here we wish to learn ways and means of advancing our work and I thought it might be helpful in this talk to discuss some of the objective points which we should try to reach this year. You know that in sowing, a farmer will set his stakes and go by them until he reaches them, and then moves them farther on and again work up to them.

In campaign the general will make his plans for taking the next point on his way and when that is captured he will work for the next objective point until the capitol is taken and the country occupied.

It is this thought of setting our stakes ahead and calling them objective points and trying to work up to them that I have in mind today. Let us say with Paul "not as tho I had already attained, but one thing I do, forgetting those things that are behind, I press toward the mark of the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus."

In our work there have been mistakes and at times we have been missjudged. Such things are inevitable, but over all is the loving and forgiving Father and by his gracious hand he leads us on.

Let us consider then some of the points that are beyond but which we ought to try to reach this year.

I An increase of 100 per cent in our membership. Many clubs and reading circles limit their membership to a certain number

because of the limited capacity of houses, but I have yet to learn of an S. S. C. E. which has not room for one more.

Our work is such that all the sisters in the church and all the friends outside of it can have a hand in it. In seeking then to double our membership this year whom should we try to reach? I answer, all the sisters in reach who are not active. First let us make an effort to gather in the younger sisters. Every church has a number of these, yet many of our societies are composed exclusively of married women.

The work suitable for these younger sisters may differ somewhat from our regular work, but after experiments and planning with them I am sure that lines of work can be taken up which will interest and hold them. Let them form a committee on plans for the society and they will devise ways of working which we have not thought of at all. Get the young unmarried sisters into the society. They need your counsel. They need to have their energies directed into useful channels and away from the giddy round of pleasure which will otherwise occupy them.

Second, let us try to find work for those who are still younger—the children. They may not be able to pay dues and do the work of the older members but they can do something.

Where our churches have Junior Endeavor societies they have their work, but few of our churches have these and while the Sunday school furnishes some activity yet it does not cover the field we do. There might be a Junior department of the S. S. C. E. with methods and work adapted to the children. There are articles they can be taught to make. On occasions of suppers or sales there are errands they can run and work they can do in many ways. If they are trained to help us while young they are more apt to escape the dangers of that giddy period which comes to every girl's life as she passes out of childhood. I am deeply in earnest in my belief that we should make an effort to include the young girls in our work.

Third, there are still many older women, some members of our church, some members of other churches and some members of no church, who are not in the society. Now I know that more work can be done by a small society of workers than by a large one of drones and untrained members. But our mission is not only to do work but it is also to train workers, and if out of this large number of sisters who are not working with us we can find some who can be interested it is worth our while to try. Some societies are at a standstill, discouraged simply because too easily discouraged in efforts to gain new members.

There are three methods I have in mind by which we may reach this first objective point.

1 Personal work. Let each member bring a list of all the sisters, young and old

who might be at work. Then appoint one or more to visit each and explain the work and solicit membership. Appoint others to follow up with other invitations if the first ones fail. Keep after them. Personal work will count greatly in winning the disinterested.

2 Public rallies. These will give enthusiasm and standing to the work. Arrange with the pastor to preach a special sermon on S. S. C. E. work, or have a program of your own with short addresses on your various lines of work. See that those you want to interest are there to get the benefit of the meeting. There ought to be one or two such rallies every year to keep the work before the people. Many hold back and even criticise our work because they do not understand it. "They know not what they do."

3 Another important method of increasing our membership is that of making our work interesting to all. Provide the nectar and the bees will come.

I have not time here to discuss in detail all the new methods which may be tried. Besides each society will have to adapt itself to its own local conditions.

I would suggest as one point however that the S. S. C. E. might imitate the example of having a "Home Class" with work for those who cannot attend the meeting. A superintendent or committee in charge of this department could visit such members and take them their work and give them reports and suggestions. It would provide activity and cheer and variety to many whose lives are dreary because of being shut in so much.

Sisters who live at a distance could also be given individual work to do at home. I have already suggested special kinds of work for the young sisters.

Let us enlarge our work until there is a place for all.

II As a second objective point this year let us seek to double our efficiency. Much time is wasted in meetings and in methods which do not accomplish much. How may we learn to do better work? We have our conference papers but they deal so much with the spiritual that there is little left for practical methods. I would suggest that we give more time to open conferences on methods and also that we have some one in charge of a column in the EVANGELIST which we might call "The Worker's Exchange" or head it "S. S. C. E. Methods" but in it let there be reports from all the societies of the successful ways of working they have tried. The Christian Endeavor World has a department in which a new plan for each committee is presented in a brief paragraph every week.

We might have symposiums.

One week let all the societies send postal card reports on how they conduct devotional meetings, how often, etc., another week let the topic be "Public Rallies," or "Articles